

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. - National Stage Entry of PCT/JP00/00055

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Abraham J. Rosner
Registration No. 33,276

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Date: July 6, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. - National Stage Entry of PCT/JP00/00055

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A crosslinkable elastomer composition which comprises a crosslinkable elastomer component and a metal oxide filler containing a silicon oxide filler in an amount of not less than 60% by weight; said silicon oxide filler has a content of impurity metals other than silicon of not more than 100 ppm which is measured under the following conditions:

~~The (i)~~ the silicon oxide filler is dispersed and dissolved in 50% hydrofluoric acid and is diluted with ultrapure water; and

~~Contents (ii)~~ contents of metals of the solution are determined through atomic absorption analysis by using an atomic absorption photometer.

3. (Amended) The crosslinkable elastomer composition of ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, wherein said silicon oxide filler has quartz crystal structure.

4. (Amended) The crosslinkable elastomer composition of ~~any of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, wherein said silicon oxide filler is blended in an amount of from 1 to 150 parts by weight on the basis of 100 parts by weight of the elastomer component.

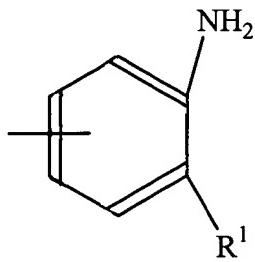
5. (Amended) The crosslinkable elastomer composition of ~~any of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, which contains a crosslinking agent and said silicon oxide filler in amounts of 0.05 to 10 parts by weight and 1 to 150 parts by weight, respectively on the basis of 100 parts by weight of the elastomer component.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. - National Stage Entry of PCT/JP00/00055

6. (Amended) The crosslinkable elastomer composition of ~~any of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, wherein the elastomer component is a fluorine-containing elastomer.

9. (Amended) The crosslinkable elastomer composition of ~~Claim 6 or 7~~ Claim 6, wherein the crosslinking agent is an organic peroxide.

10. (Amended) The crosslinkable elastomer composition of ~~Claim 6 or 8~~ Claim 6, wherein the crosslinking agent is a compound having at least two functional groups represented by the formula (I):



wherein R¹ is any one of OH, NH₂ or SH.

11. (Amended) A molded article obtained by crosslinking the elastomer composition of ~~any of Claims 1 to 10~~ Claim 1.

15. (Amended) The molded article of ~~any of Claims 11 to 14~~ Claim 11, wherein the article is used for a semiconductor manufacturing equipment.